

51 reported killed in Afghan bombing

PESHAWAR (R) — Fifty-one people were killed and 105 injured on Monday when warplanes bombed a Pakistani village near the Afghan border, Pakistani local authorities said. The political agent for Kurram Agency, a wild, mountainous region west of Peshawar, told Reuters four planes came over from the border from Afghanistan just after mid-day and bombed the village of Teri Mangal. Fifty people, Afghan refugees and Pakistanis, were killed and 101 injured in the raid, he said by telephone from Kurram. The agent, the chief Pakistani official for Kurram Agency, said four planes made a second attack three-and-a-half hours later. In this assault one person was killed and four injured. But the death toll could rise as many buildings were destroyed and people could have been buried in the rubble, he said. No reaction from Afghanistan's Soviet-backed authorities was immediately available. Pakistan said planes of the Communist-led Afghan government made two bombing raids into Pakistan on Feb. 26 and 27, one of them in Kurram Agency. Some 90 people were killed and 250 injured in the attacks, according to Pakistani officials.

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جريدة عربية مستقلة تنشر في الأردن والخارج عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

8 killed in Indian election violence

NEW DELHI (R) — At least eight people were killed and 130 injured on Monday as three of India's 24 states went to the polls in elections considered Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's toughest popularity test yet, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. PTI said all the killings took place in the southern state of Kerala, but there was also scattered violence in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir, the two other states where polling took place in elections for state assemblies. PTI reported high turnouts in the three states, in which 54 million people were eligible to vote. It said eight people were stabbed, beaten or stoned to death and 100 injured in unprecedented election violence in Kerala between rival supporters of the ruling coalition led by Mr. Gandhi's Congress (I) party and a communist led-front. Mr. Gandhi's party is facing a major challenge from the leftist front in Kerala, the last state it controls in southern India. PTI said arson and looting was under way in the Kerala village of Chittam after five leftist party workers were killed there by Congress militants. In Calcutta, capital of West Bengal, police fired tear gas and two shots in the air to stop a street battle pitting 50 supporters of the ruling Marxist-led front against 50 Congress militants, officials told Reuters.

King sends good wishes to Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday sent a cable to Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq congratulating him on the occasion of Pakistan's National Day. In his cable, King Hussein said the strong spirit of cooperation and the brotherly relations existing between Jordan and Pakistan would be strengthened to serve the interests of both Jordan and Pakistan as well as the Muslim World.

AOAS chief reelected
AQABA (J.T.) — Dr. Nasser Sayegh was re-elected as director general of the Amman-based Arab Organisation for Administrative Sciences (AOAS) for a new four-year term. Dr. Sayegh was elected during a meeting here for the organisation's board of directors.

Iraq reshuffles cabinet

NICOSIA (AP) — Issam Abdul Rahim was appointed as Iraq's oil minister in a limited reshuffle of the cabinet in Baghdad Monday, the Iraqi News Agency reported. Mr. Abdul Rahim, who was the undersecretary at the Oil Ministry, replaces Qassem Ahmad Taqi who became minister of heavy industries. Mr. Taqi replaced Sabri Yassin, who was appointed advisor at the presidency office, said the agency. Abdul Jabbar Abdul Rahim was relieved of his post as minister of transport.

Council meets on private sector health

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Council of Health on Monday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Health Minister Zaid Hamzah and discussed issues pertaining to the proposed health insurance scheme for the private sector. The council noted that the Social Security Corporation law provides for applying health insurance to SSC subscribers at a later stage. In the light of this, the council decided to form an ad hoc committee, chaired by Dr. Hamzah and grouping the president of the University of Jordan and the president of the Jordan Medical Association, to take up the issue with the board of directors of the SSC and its director general.

Arafat sends message to Mubarak

CAIRO (R) — A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official arrived here on Monday with a message from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, officials said. Foreign Ministry officials said the message carried by Mr. Arafat's political adviser Ham Al Hassan dealt with the latest Palestinian developments.

Brandt resigns as party chief

BONN (AP) — Willy Brandt, the former West German chancellor and a Nobel Peace prize winner, resigned Monday as chairman of the opposition Social Democrats. Mr. Brandt, who had led Germany's oldest political party since 1964, quit amid a party uproar over his selection of a Greek woman and non-party member, Margarita Mathiopoulos, as the Social Democrats' new chief spokesman.

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Masri: Jordan will not accept int'l conference as a cover for direct talks

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan is continuing dialogue with the U.S. administration on convening an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and rejects any concept that reduces such a conference to "a cover for direct negotiations" with no real effective role, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri said Monday.

Despite the differing views of Jordan and the U.S. over the issue, Amman and Washington are continuing the dialogue with the ultimate aim of convening the proposed conference in its proper form, Mr. Masri told an informal gathering of local and foreign journalists.

"The dialogue will not stop," said Mr. Masri. "We shall find other ways to intensify efforts at higher levels to change the minds of the Americans," he said.

American officials have repeatedly said that the U.S. was seeking direct negotiations between Israel and the concerned Arab states and have expressed no real enthusiasm for the conference idea as proposed by Jordan.

Mr. Masri noted that while the U.S. had not accepted the proposal in its form it had also not rejected it either. Washington "is not categorically rejecting" the proposal but they (American officials) want to check some details," he said explaining that the U.S. administration opposed the idea of the proposed role for such a conference.

Answering reporters' questions at the weekly "Monday Press Circle" organised by Dr. Musa Keilani, director of the Press and Publications Department of the Ministry of Information, Mr. Masri made it clear that Jordan was seeking a "proper international conference" with the active participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

Mr. Masri explained that the that the Fatah faction of the PLO has decided to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord, Mr. Masri said he doubted PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat would agree to such a move. Reports from Tunis indicated that Fatah had agreed to annul the accord as part of an agreement it reached with several other PLO factions to convene a session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers on April 20. PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem was recently quoted as saying the PNC was not expected to abrogate the Feb. 11 accord.

(Continued on page 3)

UAE urges EC bid for Mideast peace

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) told France on Monday the 12-nation European Community (EC) should make rapid efforts to help achieve peace in the Middle East, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) said.

WAM said UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan made the point in talks with visiting French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond. It said Sheikh Zayed expressed appreciation for France's role within the EC, which backs proposals for an international Middle East peace conference.

Sheikh Zayed said French efforts to achieve international peace and stability had won it a special place in the Middle East and he urged Paris to "continue to play a just and unbiased policy to support causes of truth and justice."

Mr. Raimond arrived from Oman on Monday for a two-day official visit. WAM said his talks

efforts to advance Middle East peace and underlined support for the formation of an international committee to prepare a conference, proposed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last July.

The UAE expressed appreciation for France's policy on the Palestinian issue and urged Paris to step up efforts to help achieve a solution that guarantees the Palestinians' right to self-determination, it added.

In a separate development, Kuwait and Guinea also called for an end to the Gulf war.

That call was made by Guinean President Lansana Conte and the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Al Ahmad Al Sabah at the end of a three-day visit to the emirate by the African leader.

Diplomatic sources in the Gulf said Sunday that Mr. Raimond sought to assure the leaders of Oman and the UAE that France would contribute to efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to end the war.

France and the UAE expressed concern over the recent escalation of the war and attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf, WAM said.

In talks between Mr. Raimond and the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid Abdallah Al Nuaimi, the two sides called for an immediate end to the conflict, now in its seventh year.

WAM said Mr. Raimond briefed the UAE on French

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Chadians celebrate capture of Libyan base at Ouadi Doum

N'DJAMENA, Chad (AP) — Several thousand cheering Chadians gathered in Independence Square Monday to mark their support for President Hissene Habre and celebrate the victory of government troops in a battle for the Libyan air base at Ouadi Doum.

The military command reported Sunday night that its troops had ousted the Libyans from the huge base in northern Chad after a brief but extremely violent struggle. The victory was confirmed by the French Defence Ministry in Paris.

There were still no details of the battle nor casualty counts, which officials said would be published later. But the military command said Libyan losses would be "heavy" given the violence of the fighting over what officials called the "gigantesque and monstrous stronghold constructed by Libya."

The base at Ouadi Doum was built by Libya between 1983 and 1986, was heavily manned and contained both radar and missile installations. It's 3,800-metre runway is capable of handling the largest military transports and the facility was Libya's main supply base for its occupying forces.

Libya claims it has no troops in Chad and says fighting is between government forces and Chadian rebels. The majority of the rebels have gone over to the government, however. The French and the Americans, who back Mr. Habre, estimate there are more than 11,000 Libyans in the north, including several thousand at Ouadi Doum.

"Reconquer all of Barkou-Ennedi-Tibesti," chanted the crowd in central N'Djamena, referring to the three provinces that make up the northern half of the country, occupied by Libya since 1973.

The rally was held in the presence of numerous political and military leaders, including Foreign Minister Goumara Lassou, representing the president.

"Soon, we will liberate Aouzou," said Mr. Lassou, referring to the 114,000-square-kilometre strip of territory across the top of Chad unilaterally annexed by Libya in 1973. "Soon it will be the final assault."

Ouadi Doum was one of three main Libyan bases in northern Chad. On Jan. 2, loyalist forces captured the oasis of Fada in the north east. The taking of Ouadi Doum about 7 p.m. Sunday leaves Faya Largeau, the administrative capital of the region, the main Libyan stronghold with a force estimated at several thousand.

An assault on either Ouadi Doum or Faya Largeau had been expected ever since the government forces drove the Libyans defeated the attack on Ouadi Doum.

"The piles of corpses of French and Zairian troops and the remains of the camp Habre's soldiers and the scorched American and French vehicles are still there at the Ouadi providing testimony to the abominable defeat suffered by the invading imperialist forces," the agency quoted a rebel spokesman as saying.

France has about 2,000 troops in Chad, a former French colony. Most of the French troops are with air force units and radar installations in the south.

France has said it will not get directly involved in the fighting unless the Libyans advance south of the 16th parallel, which divides Chad into the government-controlled south and Libyan-occupied north.

France has twice bombed the Ouadi Doum base in retaliation for Libyan attacks below the line. Both France and the United States have been providing Mr. Habre with arms and supplies.

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from Fada, killing 784 of its defenders and taking more than 100 prisoners.

There also have been continuing government reports of battles between Mr. Habre's forces and Libyans and bombing raids at various localities in the north western Tibesti Mountains.

Col. Qadhafi withdrew his support last fall from the major rebel leader, former President Goumara Oueddei, whose fighters then switched to the government side. Col. Qadhafi then expressed support for Achekh Ibn Oumar as leader of Mr. Goumara's Transitional Government of National Union (GUNT). Achekh not believed to have a significant military force.

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The official Libyan News Agency JANA quoted rebel forces in Chad as saying they

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"The piles of corpses of French and Zairian troops and the remains of the camp Habre's soldiers and the scorched American and French vehicles are still there at the Ouadi providing testimony to the abominable defeat suffered by the invading imperialist forces," the agency quoted a rebel spokesman as saying.

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Home news

Jordan commemorates World Meteorology Day with pomp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Meteorology Department Monday marked the World Meteorology Day by holding a special celebration under the theme: "Meteorology as an example of international cooperation."

The celebration was inaugurated by Ministry of Transport Under Secretary Mu'taz Al Bileisi, who deputised for Transport Minister Ahmad Dakhaqan. Mr. Bileisi toured the meteorology exhibition, organised by the department.

The exhibition includes weather maps, sketches, satellite photographs, facsimile machines, teleprinters and telecommunications equipment. The exhibition also includes a station for receiving information through satellites and monitoring equipment, in addition to astronomical telescopes.

Meteorology Director General Ali Abada briefed the audience on the functions of the equipment on display and on the preparation of weather forecasts.

Jordan is celebrating this day along with the other members of the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), according to Dr. Abada. WMO was established in

Jordan to observe U.N. volunteers' day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jan. 5 will be observed in Jordan as an international volunteer day, in response to a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, according to an announcement by the Cabinet here Monday.

The announcement said that the government has endorsed the idea and it is naming Jan. 5 as international volunteer day, thus responding to a U.N. call to promote the work of voluntary organisations, serving the cause of social and economic development.

The announcement said that the day will be observed with voluntary activities in schools, hospitals and other organisations, aiming to improve the environment and to offer services to needy people.

There will also be a special issue of postage stamps, exhibitions, and charity bazaars to commemorate the day, the announcement added.

Ministry of Labour and Social Development sources said that a special committee has been set up to organise the celebrations. This committee will group representatives of various Jordanian voluntary societies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Road along Red Sea to be built

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work is underway for building a 32-kilometre road between Zarqa and Ghor Haditha in the Jordan Valley. The road which goes along the Dead Sea coast will link Sweimeh north of the Dead Sea with the Safi-Aqaba Road, according to Mr. Khalaf Hawwari, under secretary of the Ministry of Public Works. He said that the cost of building the road is expected to amount to JD 15 million. The road will link the northern Jordan Valley region with the south, and the Aqaba port. The new road will shorten the existing one by 60 kilometres and will reduce traffic congestion on the Desert Highway that links Amman with Aqaba. According to Mr. Hawwari, the project will take 48 months to complete, and is being built by a consortium of local, Turkish and Swiss construction firms.

JPRC to donate to charity walk

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) has made a donation of JD 1,000 to the charity march across Jordan which is to start on April 1 and last for ten days. The march is organised by the Jordan Society for the Care of Neurological Patients in order to raise contributions for the rehabilitation of nerve-damaged patients in the Kingdom.

Egyptian, Jordanian port bodies meet

AQABA (Petra) — Vice-President of the Suez Canal Corporation Izzuddin Younis and President of the Red Sea Ports Corporation Abdul Aziz Suliman left Aqaba after a visit to the city upon the invitation of the Ports Corporation director general. During the visit the two sides discussed means of strengthening and bolstering relations between the Ports Corporation in Aqaba and the Suez Canal and Red Sea Ports Corporation in Egypt. The Egyptian delegation also had a tour of facilities in use at the Aqaba port.

Majali heads meeting of sub-committee

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahhab Al Majali Monday presided over a meeting of the Occupied Territories Affairs Sub-Committee and discussed with the committee members development projects referred to the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs by the Charitable Society for Assisting Gazans. Earlier on Monday Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin received the French ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Patrick Leclercq, and discussed with him the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Daudin also discussed prospects for France's contribution to some economic and social development projects in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Cabinet approves loan from IDB

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a JD 2.5 million loan agreement from the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank (IDB). The loan will be used to contribute to financing the Zarqa River Basin project.

Jordan seeks 'proper conference'

(Continued from page 1) reach an agreement or hold general elections."

On other issues in the region, Mr. Masri said Jordan supported the Feb. 22 deployment of Syrian troops to keep peace in west Beirut if it helped the war-torn Lebanon into security and stability. "We believe it is actually a good step especially if it will lead to restoring security and stability to all of Lebanon and to lifting the blockade of the Palestinian refugee camps" in Beirut and South Lebanon, Mr. Masri said.

On Egyptian efforts to "reconcile" Jordan and the PLO, Mr. Masri said the efforts did not produce any breakthrough but he added that the "Egyptians are now more sympathetic with our point of view."

On Jordan's efforts to bring about a more active Soviet involvement in efforts for Middle East peace, Mr. Masri said "we have confidence in the Soviet motives" to take an active interest in the region's issues and that Moscow was "now more flexible." He did not elaborate.

Replying to a question on the split within the Israeli government over the international conference idea, Mr. Masri said "both sides (the Labour Party led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the Likud bloc headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir) will have to sit down and

Islamic board to produce language programmes

CAIRO (Petra) — The board of directors of the Islamic Broadcasting Organisation has endorsed an Egyptian proposal for producing educational programmes designed to teach Arabic to non-Arab speakers to help non-Arab Muslims to learn more about the Islamic religion, according to Mr. Masoud Al Majali, director general of the Jordanian Radio and Television Corporation.

Mr. Majali, who has been attending the board meeting on behalf of Jordan, said that the proposed educational programmes will be in French and English, and will be in 15 segments. A special committee from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt has been formed to prepare the initial stages for this project, which, he

said, is expected to cost \$600,000, half of which will be covered by Egypt.

The board of directors also endorsed the organisation's various activities and programmes to be exchanged among the organisation's member states, as well as a number of important amendments to the organisation's basic by-laws, and financial and administrative measures, Mr. Majali said. In addition, he said, the board approved the organisation's general budget for 1987.

The board of directors groups representatives of Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, South Yemen, Morocco, Palestine, Pakistan, Malaysia, Niger, Libya, in addition to the organisation's general secretariat.

Liquor stores, bars, clubs to close for religious holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — All liquor stores, bars, and nightclubs will be closed in Amman and its suburbs from Wednesday evening March 25 until Saturday morning March 26 on the occasion of Al Isra' wal Miraj (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven), according to an announcement by Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amiri.

The move coincides with reli-

gious ceremonies which will be held around the Kingdom on the holy occasion. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs announced that it will organise a ceremony at a mosque on Independence Street on Thursday afternoon under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, and said that a number of senior public figures will address the worshippers at the mosque. All government departments and public institutions will remain closed on that day.

Jordan and India to tackle trade relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Intensive talks on bilateral economic and trade relations and cooperation between Jordan and India will start in New Delhi on Tuesday at the under-secretaries level.

The three-day talks will be co-chaired by Mr. Mohammad Al Saqqaf, under secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and his Indian counterpart and are part of the annual meetings of the joint Jordanian-Indian committee on economic cooperation.

Mr. Saqqaf, accompanied by a Jordanian delegation, left Amman for New Delhi on Sunday evening to start talks with Indian officials. He is accompanied by representatives of his ministry and the Jordan-Phosphate Mines Company, the Arah Potash Company and the Civil Aviation Authority.

According to statistical figures, the balance of trade between the two countries is in favour of Jordan with India importing 20 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports. In 1986, India imported 1 million tonnes of phosphates, and a total of 360,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers while Jordan imported Indian goods worth \$15 million.

However, the 1986 figures of India exports to Jordan have tripled from the level of JD 800,000 in 1985, Mr. Saqqaf told the Jordan Times on the eve of his departure to New Delhi on Sunday.

"We hope to further develop and consolidate Jordanian-Indian trade and economic ties through increasing the volume of trade exchange," Mr. Saqqaf said. He expressed hope that during his three-day visit to India, he would be able to encourage officials

there to import more Jordanian products and to raise their imports to 1.2 million tonnes of phosphates and 450,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers in sequence.

Jordan this year awarded an Indian company a \$110 million contract to build part of a 450 kilometre highway linking Jordan's south with Al Jafr, near the Iraqi border in Jordan's east.

The Kingdom's main imports from India are wheat, tea, spices and soya meal.

Mr. Saqqaf also said his talks there would focus on the feasibility of setting up a joint industrial project for fertilisers to be based either in Aqaba or in India with the products to be marketed in both countries.

Visit to Indonesia

Mr. Saqqaf's visit to the Far East will also take him to Indonesia for four days of official talks in Jakarta.

Indonesia is also a major importer of Jordanian phosphates. Jordan hopes to increase its sales of phosphates to Jakarta from the present level of 500,000 tonnes for 1986 to 900,000 tonnes for this year.

Jordanian imports from Indonesia include timber, coffee, tea, textiles and fabrics.

Accompanying Mr. Saqqaf on his 10-day trip are Mr. Assem Al Hindawi, director of the Trade Ministry's department for developing economic cooperation and increasing imports, and Mr. Ahmad Al Tarawneh and Mr. Wanas Al Hindawi, senior officials at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arah Potash Company respectively.

King, Queen watch colourful aerobatics to honour racers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — They looped, dived, and circled, leaving distinct trails of colourful flares behind in a show of the high standard of control and perfection.

Three young Jordanian pilots, members of the Royal Falcons, staged a daring aerobatic show on Monday, and pushed their light aircraft to extremes, receiving cheerful applause from the audience which included the crews of the Paris-Peking-Paris air race who arrived in Amman on Saturday evening and early Sunday morning. The air race crews will fly to Rome Wednesday, the penultimate leg of their trip.

Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, members of the royal family, and Cabinet members watch the aerobatic show to honour the Paris-Peking-Paris air racers, held at the Amman military airport on Monday (Petra photos).



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, members of the royal family, and Cabinet members watch the aerobatic show to honour the Paris-Peking-Paris air racers, held at the Amman military airport on Monday (Petra photos).

Snacks and beverage were distributed at the end of the ceremony which was organised by the Royal Jordanian. King Hussein and Queen Noor made a tour of the planes competing to win the air race, which were parked on the tarmac.

Mr. Bernard Lamy, the race organiser, told a speech he hoped a Jordanian crew would take part in the next air race which is expected to kick off from Paris two years from now.

Microjet Micromouth, captained by Raymond Michel with co-pilot Remi Grasset, leads the race which is expected to end on March 29. Microjet is an old light aircraft rebuilt to enter long-distance races. Italia Wings, a Cessna 310, is second; the Manpower, another Cessna 310 piloted by Delio Iglesias and Jean-Claude Lasse, is in third position.

Seminar examines effectiveness of Arab investment free zones

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh opened in Amman Monday a three-day seminar on Arab free zones which is being organised by the Jordanian Free Zones Corporation (JFZC) in cooperation with the Inter Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (IAIGC).

In an address to the opening session, the minister underlined the importance of the free zones, areas free from formal regulations and taxes, and their role in attracting foreign capital to help finance trade and industrial operations. The free zones have helped Arab states absorb modern technology and acquire capital for various projects, the minister said. Arab states ought to make an assessment of the experiment to make an assessment of the experiment for the future.

The IAIGC has made a detailed study of Arab free zones, and has found that they have benefitted Arab economies, Dr. Odeh noted. The minister said that, despite the gains which the Arab countries have made from these free zones, major problems in coordination among Arab organisations exist.

The IAIGC study has called for increasing coordination and cooperation among various Arab free zone corporations, and for orienting investors to safe investment areas and Arab markets,

government experts who are exchanging views about the benefits and costs of free zones for investment purposes, Mr. Hassao added.

Working session

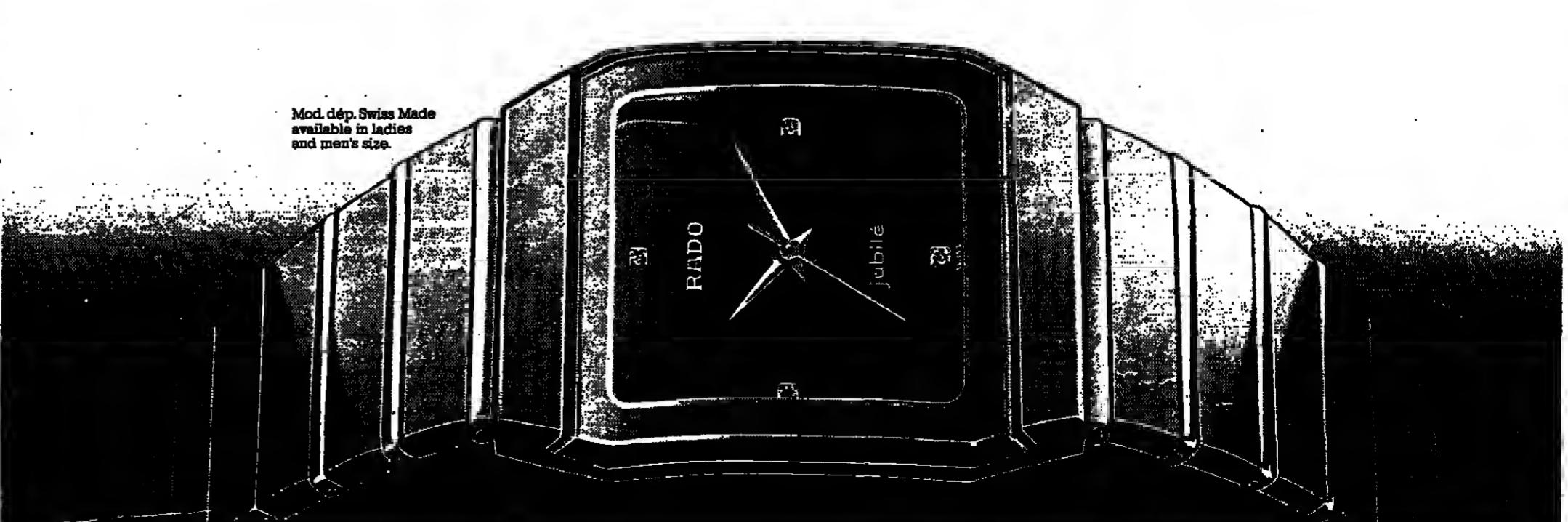
Later, the first working session was held, and Director General of the JFZC Yassin Al Kayed reviewed problems and difficulties facing investment in free zones in Jordan, and means of counteracting these problems.

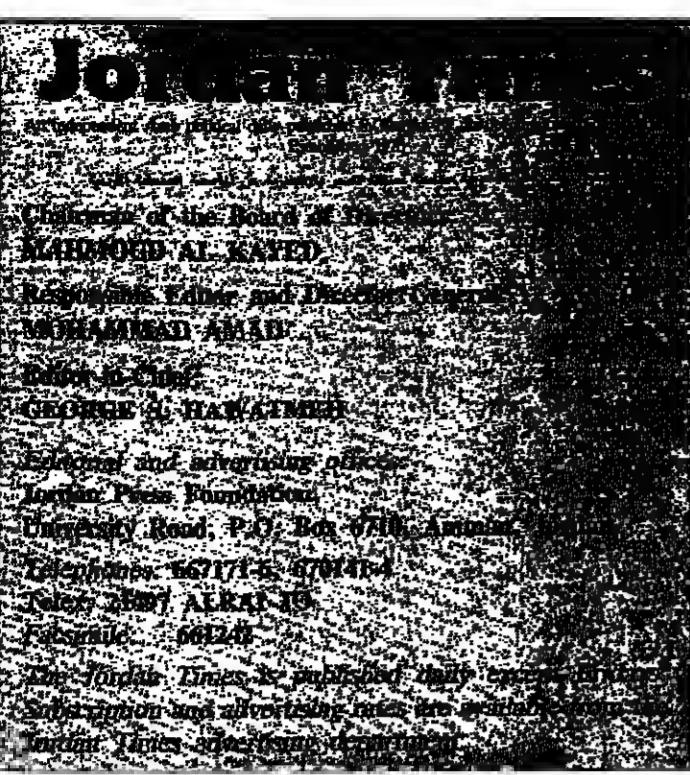
Mr. Kayed's review was followed by a study prepared by the director general of the Egyptian Studies and Researches Department at the General Investments and Free Zones Corporation, Dr. Wahid Wahbi. Dr. Wahbi's study sheds light on experiences of eight Arab countries — Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Djibouti, Syria, Egypt, Morocco and Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen. The study showed that the JFZC contribution to the GDP during the period from 1974 to 1984 was 12 per cent.

Directors of free zone corporations in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, as well as representatives of the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the Federation of Arab Chambers of Industry, Agriculture and Trade, are attending the seminar.

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THE VIEW FROM SECOND CIRCLE

By Rami G. Khouri

What's my GNP trying to tell me?

THE good rains of the past winter have certainly been bountiful for those of us who keep an eye on the Jordanian economy, if we are to judge by the several meetings with the press during the past two weeks by the prime minister, the planning minister and the industry and trade minister. And, we hear, there is more to come — which is a fine thing, give the importance of dialogue and public discussion to a rational process of problem-solving and nation-building.

While there are many interesting points that have been raised by these and other members of the government during this bonanza of communication, I have been more intrigued by the manner in which the communication process has taken place than by the substance of what has been said.

My personal view — during the boom years and now in our peculiar little recession — has always been that Jordan's economy is not subject to, and should not be judged by, the same classic rules of economic performance that other, more normal economies, live by. We are and always have been a highly abnormal economy, given that so much of the money that finances economic activity and growth in Jordan comes from outside the country.

The statistics will tell assorted tales, depending on how you choose and display them. The hard economic reality and fact of life behind the statistics is that Jordan's economic engine is driven by financial fuel that comes from outside our borders. Depending on how you interpret the statistics, the numbers will show that we rely on foreign sources of cash for anywhere between 40 and 70 per cent of our gross national product — including such foreign sources as remittances by Jordanians and Palestinians living abroad, Arab aid support, grants and soft loans from friendly foreign countries, multilateral technical assistance, and commercial loans.

The good news, though, is that Jordan has never lived in any other manner during its 66 years of history, and therefore none of the above really matters — because what is abnormal for other economies is absolutely normal and routine for us.

What I found interesting in the sudden flurry of senior officials' remarks on the economy was their apparent reluctance to admit the point I have just made, preferring rather to analyse the Jordanian economy in the same manner as one would analyse, say, the economy of West Germany or France. This is highly unfair to West Germany and France, for starters, given the much more turbulent

regional and historical context in which we have maintained growth and development patterns over the past half a century.

I would have thought it far more appropriate, in the present situation, for our senior officials to challenge the people of Jordan to do their part for economic recovery, rather than to comfort them with statistics and facts apparently designed to show that all is well in the realm.

The irony is that, yes indeed, things are more or less well in the realm. We have some vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated in recent years, such as a rising foreign and domestic debt, increased unemployment, and an inability to control international commodity prices. But which country in the world does not suffer from these and other problems?

The real question that I would like to have answered is: Why should the government always have to solve global, if not even cosmic, economic problems? Is it the responsibility of the prime minister to find jobs for all those tens of thousands of Jordanians who — in moments of unsuspecting structural inadaptation — decided to seek a university education, only to discover upon graduation that they were unemployable?

Is it the responsibility of the planning minister to explain why half a dozen sisterly Arab oil producers have found themselves unable to provide Jordan with all the aid they pledged to provide back in the late 1970s?

Ours is an economy with very little pure economics in it. Most of the ostensibly economic decisions that are made — whether by individuals, families, communities or the government — are based essentially on political criteria. These include, for example, one's assumed access to work, power and influence in the community, one's anticipation that most of the countries in the area today will be here next decade, one's recognition that personal contacts are perhaps as important a determinant of professional advancement as one's personal abilities or work performance.

I would think it more appropriate, in our current situation, for senior government officials to refuse to go along with the tendency to look to the government for all solutions, and instead to challenge the citizenry to act in a manner that supported the concept of a Jordanian community, rather than a Jordanian consumers collective.

The fact remains that, in the end, we are a politicised nation,

living in a politicised region, requiring political solutions to our multiple challenges. The prime minister — talking about anticipated Arab aid in the future — was correct to note that our number one asset is our King, meaning that financial support for Jordan is essentially a political decision, rather than the result of sophisticated calculations of anticipated returns on investments or other such economic criteria.

The truly daring, creative and statesmanlike response to the present economic slump should be — in my view — a bold domestic political leap forward in the affairs of the realm. This should be an opportunity for people and government alike to be more humble and more realistic, in both our economic expectations and our abilities to effect economic change. This can only happen when we have adjusted our system and our psyches to the point where there is a clear convergence between the concept of individual gain and the concept of the wellbeing of the community and the nation as a whole.

The current state of affairs places a premium on individual gains — to satisfy personal, family, village or clan needs — while the good of the country as a whole is left for unnamed others to concern themselves with. The economic recession is an opportunity to redress this imbalance, and to establish new mechanisms of dialogue, political participation and public accountability which would help ensure that the structural problems we suffer from today might be less severe the next time the recession comes around — as it surely will.

I find it rather embarrassing that we — the citizenry — should now push the government up against the wall and demand why it has made so many alleged mistakes, and to ask what is it doing to make things better. If there are economic problems of a structural, or other nature, they cannot all be blamed on the government, for during the past decade the mass of Jordanian people has not exactly stood by idly.

The problem we still must resolve is how to formulate decision-making systems that apportion responsibility and accountability in a just manner among the public and private sectors, so that we end up with a measure of public policy awareness and consistency that would help prevent some of the problems we complain about today. This is a political challenge, not an economic one, and it must be dealt with in political terms.

Who is duping whom?

AMID renewed debates over who duped whom in the American-Iran arms sales episode, several vital by-products of the supply of U.S. arms to Iran appear to have been overlooked and relegated to secondary importance by the international community. But we Arabs cannot afford to do so since it is our own security and stability at stake in the persisting Iran-Iraq war.

First of all, there appears to be more than meets the eye in the reported deployment of "non-American" missiles by Iran along the entrance to the Strait of Hormuz. While Washington has reportedly warned Iran not to threaten Gulf shipping with the missiles, Tehran has issued a counter-warning to the U.S. against "interference" in the Gulf.

With the elaborate media build-up of the war of words, it would appear that Washington is really serious in fulfilling its pledge to ensure the free flow of oil from the Gulf. We hope so too, but, judging from past encounters with American duplicity, there is nothing stopping us from seeing the whole missile deployment and warnings as part of a well-enacted scenario between Washington and Tehran. Supporting such an argument is the pledge by Tehran to publish its own report of the American arms sales, since all indications are that there could be more skeletons in the U.S. cupboard and more heads could roll in Washington if all facts behind the U.S.-Iran deal were to be brought into the open.

The second factor that we cannot overlook is the report that the Soviet Union has set up two "listening posts" in Iran. While we cannot expect Moscow to authenticate it, the report itself could not be seen separate from the ongoing U.S.-Iran exchange over the missile deal.

Iran, desperate for weapons to boost its war effort, is seeking all avenues to acquire arms, and Tehran appears to be sending a message to Washington: The price to avoid further embarrassments and crises for the Reagan administration is more covert or open supply of American arms to Iran. The message is further strengthened by the reported setting up of Soviet listening posts in Iran since it could also mean further cooperation between Moscow and Tehran at American expense.

No matter which way the cookie crumbles, one thing is clear: The Reagan administration is caught within its own trap and the only way out for Washington is to own up everything and assume a realistic stand and throw its full weight behind efforts to bring Tehran to the negotiating table for a peaceful settlement to the Iran-Iraq conflict. It would also restore part of the lost American credibility in the Arab World and assure the world at large of U.S. sincerity to bring about world peace and security. But, the crucial question is: Are the Americans ready for such a realistic move?

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Peaceful cooperation

KING Hussein's meeting with President Mubarak in Cairo Sunday came amid an overwhelming world-wide support for the need of convening an international conference to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a just settlement for the Palestine problem. The talks between the two leaders reflect the depth of the unique relationship between Egypt and Jordan and the continued coordination between the two leaderships for the sake of serving pan-Arab causes. Both the King and the president told journalists at the end of their meeting that the international conference is the only forum for ending the conflict in the region and that all concerned parties should attend the conference including the PLO which is the representative of the Palestinian people. This joint stand has been supported by European, Asian and African countries which all want a solution to be reached under the United Nations umbrella and want the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Both Egypt and Jordan hold identical views as to the Gulf war, and have therefore called for an end to the conflict as the start of peace negotiations. There is no doubt that both leaders will continue their efforts for arriving at the most feasible solutions for the problems of the region.

Al Dustour: Cairo, Amman in agreement

IN summing up his talks with President Mubarak of Egypt Sunday King Hussein made it clear that Jordan adheres strongly to its national stands with regard to the proposed international Middle East conference and the Gulf conflict. The King told reporters that Cairo and Amman are in agreement on the need for holding an international conference to solve the Middle East question, and both are convinced of the need for the start of peaceful negotiations between Iran and Iraq to end the conflict in the Gulf region. Since the restoration of diplomatic ties between Amman and Cairo the leaderships of both Egypt and Jordan have been coordinating their stands with regard to the problems and developments in the Middle East and this has no doubt contributed to a strengthening of Arab stands and positions in the unification of Arab World. We look on the King's visit to Cairo and his talks with Egyptian leaders as yet another step in this direction, and another stage in strengthening the Arab stand. We attach great hopes to the joint efforts of the two leaders who are bent on working relentlessly for serving the Arab cause in general and solving the Palestine issue and the Gulf question in particular.

Sawt Al Shaab: Talks for peace

KING Hussein told reporters in Cairo that joint Arab efforts should now concentrate on means for ending the Gulf conflict so as to stop the sapping of Arab and Islamic countries' resources. The King said that it is hoped that the Iraqi and Iranian leaderships will now come to the negotiating table and open talks for a lasting peace. King Hussein said that Egypt can play a leading role in mobilising Arab countries' efforts to end the conflict in the Gulf and also to help find a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. For this reason, coordinating efforts and plans with Cairo is a necessity and joining Arab forces for the common good is essential if the Arabs want to achieve success in their endeavours. The King said that Jordan and Egypt are in agreement on the need for holding an international Middle East conference and the inclusion of the PLO and all concerned parties in the negotiations for a settlement. This conference is said to be necessary for implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This is the view of Jordan as well as Egypt. Both countries are serious in their efforts for uniting Arab ranks and for resolving the problems of the Middle East region.

Reagan's slide may have ended, but problems remain

By Michael Gelb
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President Reagan appears to have stopped the plunge in his political rating triggered by the Iran arms scandal, at least temporarily, according to Washington political observers.

But many political analysts still maintain that Reagan will have only limited impact on domestic policy in his remaining two years in office as Washington increasingly turns its attention to the battle to succeed him in Congress even without the

television interview. "If we come up with new evidence, then we'll have to face that when we get it."

With the House of Representatives and Senate both controlled by the Democrats for the first time in his presidency following their success in November's midterm elections, political analysts say Reagan's legislative agenda would have faced a battle in Congress even without the

Reuters

embarrassment of the Iran arms

battle.

Reagan, barred by law from seeking a third four-year term, is suffering the diminution of power faced by any president as his term in office winds down.

"Once you get past the middle of the last term, no matter how popular the president, Washington becomes focused on the succession fight," Republican political strategist David Keene told

About 65 per cent of people polled before the Iran arms scan-

DO YOU EVER FEEL THAT
MAYBE THINGS HAVE...
GOTTEN AWAY FROM
YOU?

NO

NO

NO

NO



I REFUSE
TO ANSWER
THAT.

Rebel gains raise new doubts about Philippine army

By Philip Melchior
Reuters

MANILA — A week in which the Philippine armed forces conceded 37 deaths to Communist rebels in just two incidents has raised fresh doubts about its ability to take decisive action in the country's long-running guerrilla war.

The two actions — one in the far south and one in the north of the country — came in the course of what the state-run Philippine news agency called the bloodiest week of the civil war, with 104 dead and 71 wounded including civilians and police.

Rumours persist that more large-scale fighting is likely in the near future between the 150,000-strong regular military and the New People's Army (NPA), estimated at 24,000.

Several journalists here have been told by NPA sources that the rebels will stage at least one and possibly more major attacks on the Philippine army during the coming week in a bloody build-up to the 19th anniversary of the NPA's founding on March 29.

Last week's attacks — at Zamboanga in southern Mindanao and in Quezon province on the main island of Luzon — were notable for several reasons, military analysts say.

They were both reported to have involved large numbers of NPA regulars who were prepared to confront the army head-on, yet were able to escape with apparently low casualties.

Coincidentally, the two outbreaks came almost at the same

time as comments in Washington by a senior Pentagon official which have angered both President Corazon Aquino and the armed forces.

Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary for defence and international security affairs, told an influential congressional subcommittee that Aquino's administration simply had no real policy to deal with a war which has lasted on and off for 18 years.

Armitage cautioned against expecting significant government gains against the rebels in the near future.

Counter-insurgency strategies are developed and then discarded. Military advice is often ignored. Distrust and apathy pervade civil-military relations," he said.

Aquino had done no better than her deposed predecessor Ferdinand Marcos in planning against the rebels and had "regrettably failed to develop a comprehensive counter-insurgency plan that integrates military, political, economic and social programmes."

Where Marcos relied solely on the military, members of Aquino's administration believe that they can rely almost exclusively on symbolic political acts to cure the insurgency," Armitage declared.

Armitage's sentiments publicly echoed those often expressed privately here by senior diplomats and military analysts — including some Filipinos.

Analysts with close links to the armed forces say that although progress is being made it will take

upwards of a decade before the military is fully professional.

Even Defence Secretary Rafael Eto — himself a former ranking officer — has complained bitterly about the quality of the army he inherited from Marcos, saying it was incapable of mounting sustained operations.

Referring to "let us fight" pleas by sections of the army during a recent ceasefire with the Communists, Eto said: "Their spirit is willing ... whether their skill or their equipment or support is up to it only time will tell."

Military statistics say about 365 people have died in insurgency-related incidents since the 60-day ceasefire ended on February 8 with the failure of peace talks between the two sides.

The army puts the death toll at 81 civilians, about 115 military (including police) and around 170 NPA regulars.

The war rarely comes directly to the cities.

The rebels, conscious of their public image, go in for interviews rather than the terror tactics of random bombings. The work of their "sparrow squads" — assassination units — is directed at individual targets and even then is often overstated.

After a rash of police killings in and around the capital, police headquarters last week drew back from their previous automatic response of blaming the NPA.

Of about 12 killings, only four were definitely linked to the sparrow squads — the others were common or garden murders, police chief Brigadier General Alexander Aguirre said.

Few expect the two opposition parties to question the government's record on, say, handling the economy, corruption or employment, although the economy

is in its worst shape for several years after the slump in world oil prices and unemployment is rising.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and a leading producer of commodities like rubber, tin, palm oil and coffee, has been forced to restrict government spending severely after the crash in oil prices last year.

Astrid Susanto, a leading social scientist at the University of Indonesia, said in an interview published in the Jakarta newspaper *Surya Pembaruan* that there were a number of issues that the three parties could debate in the coming campaign.

"But I doubt they will dare to speak on issues concerning unemployment, increased income, and cheap housing in their election campaigns," he stated.

The position of President Suharto, who has ruled the giant equatorial country of 168 million people for the past 21 years, is not under challenge. His five-year term continues until March next year, and he has already said he will stand again.

The election is more an exercise in consensus-building and fostering nationhood than in choosing governments, and the campaigning is expected by most independent Indonesian observers and academics to be remarkably short on issues.

Few expect the two opposition parties to question the government's record on, say, handling the economy, corruption or employment, although the economy

under Suharto's military-backed rule has been stable for two decades, achieving self-sufficiency in its staple food, rice, and concentrating on economic development during the oil boom years of the 1970s.

Suharto has outlawed campaigning on religious or sectarian issues, and the predominantly Muslim United Development Party (PPP) has been forced to change its symbol to a star from the powerful symbol of the Kabah in Mecca, Islam's holiest city.

In a country that is 87 per cent Muslim, the PPP is the most credible opposition to the government, which has been worried by a revival of fundamentalism in parts of Java, Indonesia's most populous island.

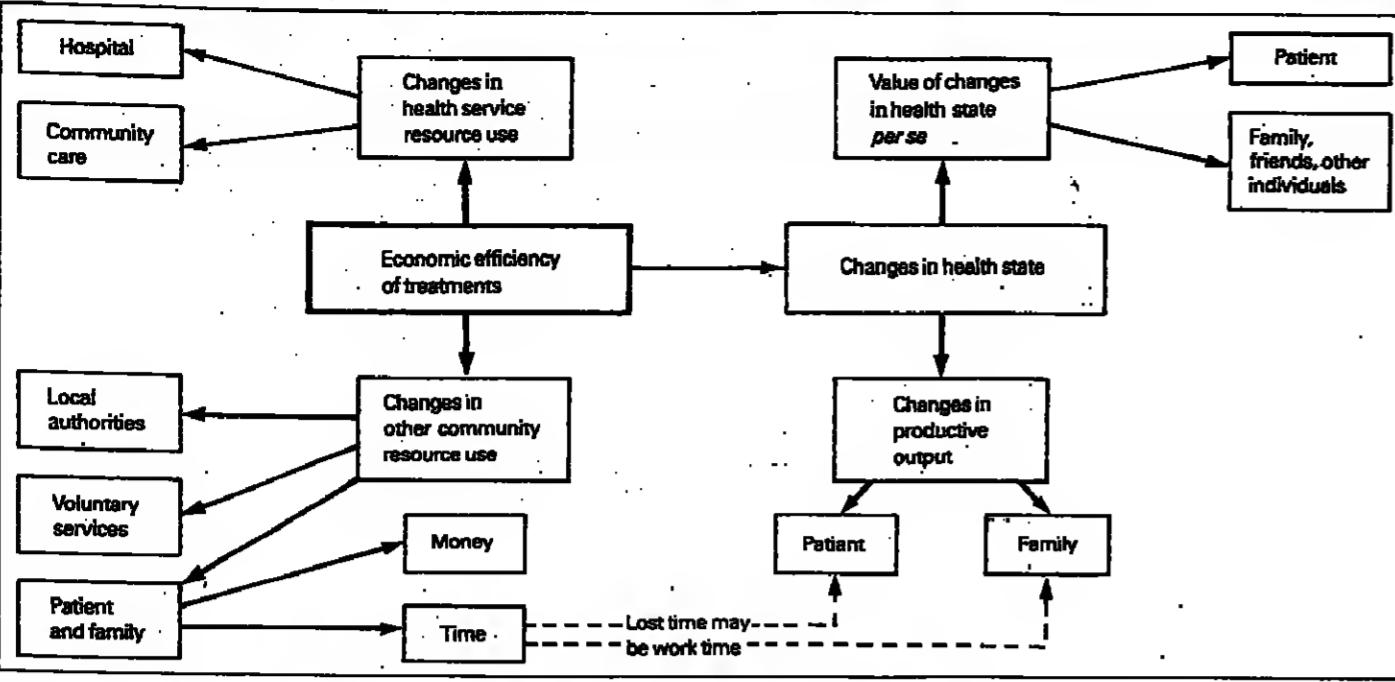
Legislation passed two years ago binding all political and social organisations in the country to the state ideology known as *Pancasila* effectively outlaws the creation of an Islamic state.

Golkar has formed an alliance with the third party, the small and weak Indonesian Democracy Party (PDI), against the PPP in some parts of the country.

The 280,000-strong armed forces will be on alert across the country.

The government officially states it expects no trouble during the ballot. But the commander of Central Java has said he fears some extremist groups may try to sabotage polling stations, markets or electricity generating facilities.

In the last elections around 60 people died in accidents and political violence, including a riot in Jakarta in which five people were shot dead.



Economics in health care: what equation?

By Professor Michael Drummond

All countries are finding that their resources for health care are becoming more and more stretched. Rapid technological advance is coupled with growing public awareness and expectations of what can be provided, while the range of possible treatment expands. Someone has to assess priorities, but how? Recent research may at least point to the path we should follow.

EVERY nation, no matter how far it has developed industrially, needs to make tough choices on how to use those of its resources that are scarce. Competition for resources is not only between different sectors of the economy, but within each sector, too. Should more resources be devoted to education than to health care? Within the health care sector, ought we to devote more resources to primary health care than to providing hospitals with the latest medical equipment? Within the treatment options for a certain clinical condition, duodenal ulcer for example, are we to give patients surgery or therapy based on one of the new drugs?

Nobody would pretend that such choices are easy to make. No matter what the country, decisions about allocating resources in the health care field must take account of a complex interplay of social, cultural, economic and political factors. In the past, evidence about the effectiveness of health care treatments or programmes, generated through medical research, has always been an overriding consideration. But the growing burden of health care costs has compelled researchers in Britain and elsewhere to develop ways of assessing the costs and benefits, or cost-effectiveness, of health care.

Concern about cost is more than merely financial: it stems from the notion that the more an authority devotes scarce resources to a given activity, the more the benefits from using those same resources in other worthwhile activities are foregone. Economists define the opportunity cost of using a resource as the benefit that could have been generated in its best alternative use. This idea is force-

Evaluation techniques

For the reasons outlined, economists have been developing ways of assessing the costs and benefits of health care programmes. The range of factors that they seek to take into account is shown by the diagram. In examining economic efficiency it is important to examine the changes in resource use brought about by treatments, not only in the hospital sector but in community care, too. It is also relevant to consider the resources contributed by other public agencies and the family. This is particularly important for the evaluation of the early discharge of patients from hospital after surgery and of community care schemes for the elderly, mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Furthermore, it can be seen that evaluation of efficiency requires consideration of the changes that treatments or programmes bring about in the health

of the patient. Economic evaluation is a complement of medical research, not a substitute for it.

Finally, the diagram makes it clear that the value of improved health is not confined to the changes in productive output through people living longer or in their health itself being better; it has a value in its own right. So consideration of the economics of health care is certainly not a recipe for discriminating against the elderly, handicapped or other groups that may not be in employment. This point was emphasised in an article published in the *British Medical Journal* by Professor Alan Williams of the University of York. He argued that the cost of health care interventions should be compared with the years of life gained, adjusted by factors to reflect the quality of that life. The particular measure he used was the quality-adjusted life year (QALY), which he calculated for various health care programmes using judgments from physicians and measurements of the relative value of health states obtained by Dr. Rachel Rosser of the Middlesex Hospital, London. This work is still largely experimental but is an important development in the economic evaluation of health care programmes. Similar research is being carried out in the USA and Canada.

Applications of evaluation

Economic evaluation has been applied in many branches of medicine in the industrialised and developing world. One of the most recent surveys is that which I undertook with Anne Mills of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for a recent issue of *World Health Statistics Quarterly*. It covers some 150 studies.

In industrial countries, the main emphasis has been on evaluating the costs and benefits of expensive medical technology such as computer tomography (CT) scanners and neonatal intensive care for infants with abnormally low weight at birth. A common finding is that while new medical technologies have undoubtedly benefits, they are often used in clinical work where the costs are high in relation to the benefits obtained. And, in the context of a growing emphasis on community care and prevention of illness, there have been evaluations of home care for the elderly and screening for various diseases such as cancer, hypertension, spina bifida and Down's Syndrome. The Centre for Health Economics at the University of York and the Health Economics Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen are research groups that are notably active in that field.

There have been evaluations of key primary health care projects in various countries such as that in Narangwal, India; an expanded programme on immunisation developed by the World Health Organisation, and the control of locally endemic diseases such as schistosomiasis.

Acute scarcity of resources for health care are used as efficiently as possible and to assist those working in the health care field to put forward a good case for more funds. Also, as economic development makes it easier to buy advanced medical technologies, there is a need to consider understanding more economic evaluations to ensure that new technology and techniques are used efficiently.

While technology in health care continues to advance, the capability to evaluate new techniques from an economic viewpoint should develop hand in hand with it. The methods of economic evaluation I have outlined will probably be continually refined; special priority should be given to developing the assessment of improvements in the quality of life brought about by health technologies.

A related priority is for governments to ensure that suitable evaluations are carried out. In Britain, for example, the U.K. Department of Health and Social Security took the initiative to commission an economic evaluation of the heart transplant programme. It was undertaken by a team led by Martin Buxton of Brunel University, near London, to provide data for decisions about further expansion of the programme. The report was published in 1985 by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London.

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Known locally as the *chicha*, the hookah has many names — including the *narghile* and "bubble bubble."

This last comes from the noise the pipe makes as the tobacco smoke is drawn through a snake-like nozzle and bubbles through water in the pipe's bowl-shaped base.

The author is disturbed by the unflattering image with which, he says, the Arabs are hurdeed.

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Evert Lloyd shows old form in beating Shriver in Dallas

DALLAS (R) — Top seed Chris Evert Lloyd kept her perfect record against fellow American Pam Shriver alive when she cruised past the second seed 6-1, 6-3 to win the \$250,000 Dallas Classic women's tennis tournament.

For Lloyd, who has never lost to Shriver in 18 meetings, it was her 149th title and she received \$50,000.

Lloyd, who lost just two sets in the tournament, appears to have regained her championship form for the first time since coming back from a knee injury in February.

"It was a little bit special. I needed to get a tournament under my belt. I was getting tired of hearing that I hadn't won a tournament since the French Open (last May). After the first round, I think I played some of the best tennis in my career," said

Lloyd. Even Shriver, who collected \$22,500 as runner-up, was pleased with Lloyd's return to form.

"It's good to see Chris playing well again, because we missed her," Shriver said. "It's good to have her back. Women's tennis needs her for a few more years."

Lloyd, normally a slow starter, won 14 of the first 16 points Sunday as Shriver won only five points on her serve. Usually her main weapon, the second seed was unable to hold her own serve in the first set.

Soviet coach sees East-West gap

By Andrew Warshaw
The Associated Press

CAMBERLEY, England (AP) — Valentin Shevchuk has coached some of the Soviet Union's best gymnasts, and he knows that all the training in the world won't turn a clumsy naif into an Olga Korbut.

"A gymnastic genius is born, not created," Shevchuk said.

After helping to divulge their techniques to hundreds of British youngsters recently, however, Shevchuk and Soviet colleagues Alexander Fedorov and Valentin Monzolevskaya say an enormous gap remains between general standards in the East and West.

Building a team to back up a genius, Shevchuk said, requires high-clibre coaches, and government funding is needed in hire them.

"The problem in Britain, and much of the rest of the West, is that there is no state support for gymnastics," Shevchuk said through an interpreter during a coaching session at Camberley. "Because of that, there are no qualified coaches, no colleges or specialist establishments.

"The only people who can be trained are general physical education teachers. Like their students, they are very enthusiastic but that is not enough to produce world-beaters.

"In the Soviet Union, we have a slogan: It's the staff who decide

everything. That means if they aren't qualified enough, the gymnasts suffer."

Shevchuk, coaching director at the Krasnodar Gymnastics Training Centre in Siberia, has been involved with several leading Soviet gymnasts including Eleonora Naishinskaya, a member of her country's gold medal team at the 1980 Olympic Games.

Fedorov works at the Vladimir School of Gymnastics and coaches two-time men's world champion Yuri Korolyov. Monzolevskaya works extensively with both the men's and women's national squads.

British officials hope the Soviet visit will help improve that record.

"They have brought new approaches, with a patience and an attention to detail that most kids here have never seen before," Atkinson said. "And we have been able to reap the maximum benefit from their expertise."

British officials are hailing the tour as a major breakthrough in sporting relations between the two countries. It was brought about thanks to the long-standing friendship between Yuri Titov, president of the World Gymnastics Federation, and British Vice President Frank Edmonds.

For several years, top young British gymnasts regularly have visited the Soviet Union on scholarships to train with leading coaches there. Until now, the trips never had been reciprocated.

"We have spent more than 10 years trying to get coaches like these over here," said John Atkinson, technical director of the British Amateur Gymnastics Association. "They are among the best in the world and we think it is a major breakthrough. Their help has been enormous."

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European league roundup

Maradona refuses to panic over loss

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona is refusing to panic after Napoli's second league defeat of the season trimmed its lead at the top to three points.

At the beginning of this month Napoli was apparently canting towards its first title, but a couple of stumbles since have given renewed hope to the posse of clubs tracking Maradona and his men.

Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Internazionale, following a 0-0 draw with Roma last week, has awakened doubts about Napoli's durability but captain Maradona refuses to accept that his team is beginning to look fragile.

"The championship race has not re-opened. In a championship attempt was overshadowed by the top seed's ability to bear down and win the match without committing another error."

"I was going into the match thinking that if I played well I would win," Lloyd said. "This is my fifth week back and I feel really fresh."

Holmes eyes bout with champion Tyson

LONDON (AP) — Former world heavyweight boxing champion Larry Holmes, could step on of retirement to take on the current titlist, Mike Tyson, "in the not too distant future," Tyson's handlers said recently.

Bill Cayton, co-manager of the 20-year-old World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association champion, said there already had been negotiations between the two.

"Larry Holmes is a highly skilled fighter. He would make the fight very competitive," Cayton said.

"They have brought new approaches, with a patience and an attention to detail that most kids here have never seen before," Atkinson said. "And we have been able to reap the maximum benefit from their expertise."

Monzolevskaya, whose dance techniques have become an integral part of Soviet gymnastics training, said she had no qualms about passing on her knowledge to Westerners.

"In Russia we have no secrets," she said through an interpreter. "The Japanese took all our methods in the early 1950s and became world champions, so why should we be worried about helping other gymnasts?"

Monzolevskaya defended her country's system of intensive coaching, saying the West's perception of young girls in the Soviet Union being stretched to the limit of physical capability was exaggerated.

"We are having negotiations

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WBA strips Hagler of world middleweight title

CARACAS (R) — The World Boxing Association (WBA) has bypassed the organization's top 10 contenders for his much-publicized bout with Sugar Ray Leonard, scheduled to take place in Las Vegas on April 6.

Hagler's attorney, Morris Goldings, appealed to the executive committee to postpone the decision, WBA officials said.

WBA executives and fight promoters gathered in the city of Maracay, 67 miles west of the Venezuelan capital, for the opening of the organization's new headquarters.

During the meeting, the WBA executive committee upheld a recommendation made by the championship committee last month to strip Hagler of his title because he failed to make a mandatory defense against top-ranked contender Herol Graham of Britain.

WBA President Gilberto Mendoza of Venezuela said the

American middleweight champion had bypassed the organization's top 10 contenders for his much-publicized bout with Sugar Ray Leonard, scheduled to take place in Las Vegas on April 6.

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American NBA roundup

Portland edges Chicago

PORLAND (AP) — The Bulls trailed Portland by two points in the final seconds Sunday night when Trail Blazers guard Terry Porter knocked the ball away from Michael Jordan, forcing Elston Turner to take the potential winning shot.

Turner missed, giving Portland the 115-113 National Basketball Association victory.

Turner averages 3.4 points per game compared to 36.8 for Jordan.

Kiki Vandeweghe had 28 points, Steve Johnson 24 and Clyde Drexler 23 for Portland, offsetting Jordan's 46 points and 26 rebounds by Charles Oakley.

In other NBA games, Boston defeated New Jersey 116-104; San Antonio edged the Los Angeles Clippers 116-112 in overtime; the Los Angeles Lakers beat Sacramento 120-121.

In Los Angeles, the Lakers won its 10th straight game, one short of the NBA high this season, as Magic Johnson had 33 points, 19 assists and 12 rebounds.

The win gave Los Angeles a

Nevada downs Iowa to advance to NCAA final 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Freddie Banks and Gerald Paddio came alive from 3-point range, and top-ranked Nevada-Las Vegas rallied behind a 27-4 run in the second half to beat sixth-ranked Iowa 84-81 Sunday and advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association final four.

Banks hit three 3-pointers in the second half, while Paddio had all four of his after halftime as Nevada-Las Vegas rallied from a 19-point first-half disadvantage. UNLV has won 22 in a row to go 10-0.

Clark finished at 72 for an eight under par 284 total Sunday to win by three from James, round in 74. Another Briton, 19-year-old Peter Baker, in his first full season as a professional, shot 68 for third place on 288.

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RAGHADAN
Tel: 622198
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Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45

Economy

Indonesia fails to boost non-oil exports

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's exports outside the oil and gas sector are failing to prosper enough to make up for the fall in revenues caused by the slump in world crude-oil prices, central bank statistics showed Monday.

Bank Indonesia's weekly statistical report shows that exports from the non-oil sector fell in 1986 to \$5.787 billion from \$5.983 billion in 1985.

This is mostly because the value of important commodity exports like timber, rubber, palm oil and tea fell as a result of lower international prices.

Indonesia, the only Asian member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is relying on increasing its non-oil exports to make up for lost oil revenues after last year's collapse in world prices.

It devalued the rupiah by 31 per cent against the dollar in September to boost commodity exports.

Western bankers said the impact of the devaluation would probably not have had a significant effect on 1986 exports. The government expects exports in the non-oil sector to pick up in the present calendar year.

Exports of coffee showed a big jump in value to \$753 million from \$580 million in 1985, reflecting a jump in prices after a

drought in Brazil.

Rubber was down at \$625 million against \$720 million in 1985. Tin exports were valued at \$180.6 million in 1986 compared with \$246 million the previous year, the bank said.

World Bank chief highlights difficulties

Meanwhile, World Bank President Barber Conable met 14 Indonesian cabinet ministers Monday to review the country's borrowing needs and the impact of the slump in oil prices on South East Asia's largest nation.

Mr. Conable, who sees President Suharto Tuesday, is expected by Western diplomats to press the government to maintain the momentum of economic policy change to help boost exports and revitalise domestic industry.

Indonesia, the Third World's sixth largest debtor, has received \$10.7 billion from the bank over the past 20 years.

The Jakarta Post newspaper urged Mr. Conable to prod President Suharto's government to ward off further economic change.

Mr. Conable declined to give details of Monday's two-hour meeting, attended by all ministers connected with development and the economy. National Development Planning Minister Johannes

Sumarlin said only that the session has been "good."

On arrival in Indonesia on Saturday, Mr. Conable said the economy was being well managed, but the fall in oil prices called for major policy adjustments.

"He has come at a time," the Jakarta Post said, "when the Indonesian economy is suffering from fiscal restraints due to drastically declining oil revenues, increasing unemployment, marketing problems for its major export commodities and a bureaucratic system that still has not acquired the aggressiveness and imagination to respond to this crisis situation."

Diplomats expect Mr. Conable to be guarded in his public statements, but to push during his talks for further measures to dismantle Indonesia's high-cost protected economy.

The government has responded to the oil crunch, which slashed the value of Indonesia's oil and gas revenues by 50 per cent, by devaluing the currency, attempting to boost exports and foreign investment, while bridging its deficit with foreign borrowing.

Total overseas debts amount to around \$37 billion, with debt repayments and servicing taking a third of the budget in the coming financial year starting April 1.

Saudi British Bank reports lower profit

BAHRAIN (R) — Two more Saudi Arabian joint venture banks have published 1986 earnings, with Saudi British bank reporting a 5.1 per cent drop in net profit and Saudi Investment Bank returning to the black.

The latest results mean seven of the kingdom's nine joint venture banks have now reported 1986 results.

Bankers said the overall picture is of declining earnings and continued high drain on profits from the need to build provisions against bad and doubtful loans.

The two banks still to report are the troubled Saudi Cario Bank and Bank Al Jazira.

Saudi British Bank, omitting its dividend for the second year running, said net profit fell to 2.6 million riyals (\$2.3 million) from 9.1 million (\$2.4 million) in 1985, while total assets slipped marginally to \$1.6 billion riyals (\$2.2 billion).

Saudi Investment Bank reported a return to net profit, from a small 1.3 million riyals (\$350,000) for 1986 after a net loss of 1.5 million (\$4.1 million) in 1985. Assets fell 6.5 per cent to 4.27 billion riyals (\$1.1 billion).

It also omitted a dividend and bankers said a large rise in bank deposits was a sign of possible support during last year by the kingdom's central bank, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA).

SAMA has also aided Saudi Cairo and United Saudi Commercial Bank (USCB) with low cost deposits. The banks can then invest these at market rates for a profit to bolster earnings.

Cardinals meet to discuss Vatican's critical cash bind

VATICAN CITY (R) — Cardinals appointed by Pope John Paul II to oversee Vatican finances Monday began a three-day meeting as the Holy See prepared to make a fresh appeal to the world's Roman Catholics to stem growing deficits.

It is the finance commission's first meeting since Italian magistrates issued arrest warrants last month for Archbishop Paul Marcius and other Vatican Bank officials over the 1982 crash of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano but a Vatican spokesman said the affair "is not on the agenda."

Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia, a commission member, has been in the forefront of churchmen who have called for clarity in Vatican finances. Ten of the 14 commission members are attending the meetings with top Vatican officials.

Cardinal Krol told reporters over the weekend that the commission had decided at its last meeting in October to send all the world's bishops audited Vatican budgets for the years up to 1984, and provisional figures for the years since.

The information, which was not yet been sent, is intended to help the bishops better understand the Holy See's financial problems and explain the need for more contributions from the faithful, Vatican sources said.

The Holy See's budget deficit for 1985 grew to about \$39 million, about \$11 million over 1984. The 1986 deficit has been projected at \$56 million.

The budget concerns the church's Central Administrative

Dollar slides as dealers test currency accord

LONDON (R) — The dollar fell Monday to its lowest on the foreign exchanges since six leading industrial nations agreed in February to stabilise currency values, a pact that the market may now be about to test.

Dealers said the dollar briefly touched a low of 1.8180 West German marks, before recovering to just above 1.82 in the middle of the day. That compared with 1.87 marks less than two weeks ago.

In Tokyo, the dollar slipped below 151 yen for the first time since Jan. 28 to end the morning there at 150.88, down more than a half yen from Friday. The dollar later eased in Europe to 150.70 yen.

Gold, to which some investors resort in times of dollar uncertainty, edged higher to be fixed at \$406.60 an ounce in London, compared with a previous fix of \$404.45.

Dealers said some speculators were selling dollars, beginning to

test the industrialised nations' resolve to keep currency markets stable. The leading central banks could, if they wished, iron out disruptive dollar swings with big buy or sell orders.

Finance ministers of the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain and Canada met in Paris on Feb. 22 and said they favoured stabler currencies. That followed a sharp slide by the dollar in the first weeks of 1987.

Since the Paris meeting, foreign exchange dealers have been guessing on whether the finance ministers' accord also included a secret pact to coordinate central bank intervention to stop the dollar renewing its tumble. And if it did, what rate would trigger it?

Dealers said some speculators were selling dollars, beginning to

The dollar, which was more than two marks in mid-December, plunged to 1.7860 marks in January because of the sluggish performance of the U.S. economy.

The dollar fall was apparently encouraged by the United States, which hoped it would make its exports more competitive and help correct a trade deficit which in 1986 hit \$170 billion.

At the Paris meeting, the main trading surplus nations, Japan and West Germany, promised the United States that they would stimulate their economies to absorb more imports. And the United States joined in the pledge to stabilise the dollar.

The dollar then rebounded and rose to a high of 1.8715 marks on March 11.

But since then it has eased again, with the fall accelerating Monday down to around 1.82 marks, and dealers said it now looked as if the market — which still thinks the dollar may be

overvalued — might be about to make its first serious test of the central banks' post-Paris resolve.

Speculators who were inclined to sell dollars, however, remained wary that, if they did so, they could be "burned" by snap central bank purchases.

The European market Monday was partly driven down by earlier dollar selling in the Far East. The tone of the market was described as jittery and cautious.

Another factor which helped push the dollar lower was a comment by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker in an interview on British television.

A remark by Mr. Baker that the leading industrialised nations did not set a target exchange rate for the dollar in Paris on Feb. 22 was taken as a sign that the United States might still want a weaker dollar, dealers said.

The dollar has fallen about 40 per cent over the last two years, mostly because of the September 1985 Plaza agreement in which

the Group of Five nations — the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France — agreed that it was overvalued.

The Reagan administration counts on improved trade figures to help it ward off congressional demands for legislation to limit imports.

Japan and West Germany, whose economies rely heavily on exports to the United States, are worried that further declines in the dollar will cause them serious damage.

At the Paris meeting, the Reagan administration agreed to stabilise the dollar in exchange for policies by Japan and West Germany to stimulate home demand in their economies so that they absorb more foreign goods.

But U.S. officials indicated that Japan and West Germany had to deliver or their side of the bargain to be sure that the United States would help arrest any new dollar fall.

African states reaffirm need for debt relief

TAUPO, New Zealand (R) — Debt among African countries will continue to grow and their economies will remain stifled unless developed countries lower their interest rates, Nigerian Trade Minister Samaila Mamman said Monday.

The minister told an informal General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting that the widening gap between developed and developing countries and an inequitable international economic system were major impediments to the growth of developing countries.

"I wish to emphasise that the growth in the volume of the external indebtedness of African countries reflects the full effects of the deflationary monetary and trade policies of the developed market economy countries," Mr. Mamman said.

The developed market economy countries have slowed down output growth thereby drying up markets for the commodity exports of African countries," he said.

Brazil has given no indication of when it might resume interest payments, prompting fears that several large U.S. banks may be forced into substantial debt write-downs.

Mr. Baker pointed to positive aspects of the debt strategy, noting that private commercial banks have been unable to service their obligations because of three factors beyond their control — deterioration in their terms of trade, fluctuations in world interest rates and a sharp drop in new private capital flows.

Trade protection by industrial countries, as well as falling commodity prices, meant that exports fell to less than \$80 billion in 1986 from \$98 billion in 1984, he said.

Mr. Ortiz Mena noted that lower interest rates last year brought \$5 billion in savings to the region but this was largely offset by lower commodity export prices.

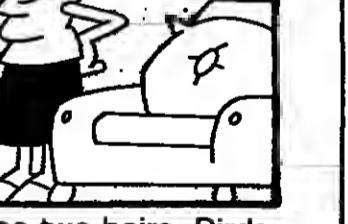
At the same time, credit flows proved insufficient to compensate for the interest payments and capital remittances.

The net flow of foreign capital into Latin America has approached \$7 billion a year during the past four years — a far cry from the bountiful stream which flowed during the mid-70s and peaked at \$49 billion in 1981," he said.

Investment has stagnated, remaining at mid-60s levels between 1984-86, bringing the region's economy virtually to a standstill, he said.

"The long-term solution to Latin America's foreign debt

THE BETTER HALF



"I ought to trim those two hairs. Birds keep mistaking them for worms!"

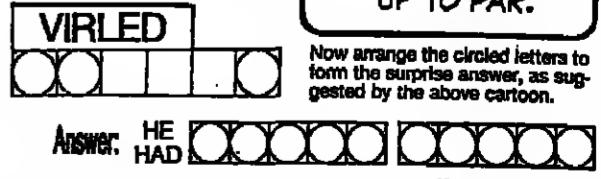
JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BYBOH
LIBEE
SOTILD
VIRLED



THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee
Meet some young healthy people



WHY DRACULA WASN'T FEELING UP TO PAR.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HE HAD

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: ROBOT HAIRY SIPHON EULOGY
Answer: She always puts two and two together WHETHER THEY ARE OR NOT

Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Filipino army captain arrested for military academy bombing

MANILA (R) — An army captain was arrested Monday over the bombing of the Philippine military academy, which was described by President Corazon Aquino as an attempt to assassinate her.

Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos said he had ordered the arrest following the seizure by a military team of grenades and rounds of ammunition from the house of the unnamed captain. Investigators said the captain was an instructor at the academy and was familiar with firearms and explosives.

Four people were killed and 40 injured last Wednesday when the blast partly wrecked a grandstand where Mrs. Aquino was due to review graduating troops Sunday. Gen. Ramos told reporters the suspected involvement of the captain "appears to be the most likely and plausible lead" in the bomb blast, near the mountain resort town of Baguio.

He said the officer had been held informally by the military since he was interrogated after the bombing.

Three other soldiers have also been held since facing questioning after the bombing, but they were not charged Monday.

Gen. Ramos said investigators had not discounted other theories, which earlier included the complicity of Communist guerrillas. The Communist New People's Army has denied any involvement.

Baguio regional military commander Brigadier-General Jesus De La Cruz told reporters investigators had found in the captain's house 30 rifle-propelled grenades, six M-203 grenades, a fragmentation grenade, a detonator, boxes of M-16 bullets and a roll of electrical wire.

The captain, Gen. De La Cruz said, told investigators the items seized from his house were being used by cadets in their training.

Gen. De La Cruz earlier said

Soviet anti-tank explosives used in the blast was part of an arms shipment from China intended for rebels but intercepted by the military.

The Soviet explosive was said

"under the articles of war." They said no more specific charges had yet been filed against him.

The elite academy has been regarded by some military analysts as a major site of lingering anti-Aquino resentment.

It played heavily against the country's new constitution in a referendum last month widely seen as a vote of confidence in her leadership. Its former superintendent, General Jose Zuniel, is in hiding, sought by the authorities for involvement in alleged coup plots.

The military brought a colonel and 70 soldiers before investigators Monday in its first major step to comply with Mrs. Aquino's order to punish coup plotters.

Mrs. Aquino has vowed retribution against rebellious soldiers.

Col. Oscar Canlas and his men appeared for the first time before a three-man military investigating panel to say why they should not be charged with mutiny.

Col. Canlas led a 61-hour military takeover of a major Manila television station in January.

Brazil could build nuclear bomb in 2 years — general

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazil has the technical knowledge to build an atomic bomb within the next two years or so, a Brazilian general was quoted as saying.

"We do not have the objective of making an atomic bomb, but if it is necessary we are going to build it," General Haroldo Ericsson Da Fonseca, who heads the army's Science and Technology Secretariat, was quoted as saying. "Obviously with the knowledge that we are acquiring we will be in a position to do it. It is possible that this could happen in two years, if we bad the resources," he told the Folha De Sao Paulo newspaper.

It was officially revealed last December that Brazil has a secret nuclear programme separate from its nuclear energy programme.

The senior official who first divulged the "parallel" programme said last week that secrecy was necessary because other countries were trying to prevent

Brazil from developing nuclear technology.

The official, Rex Nazareth, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, said the programme was not intended to produce a nuclear bomb.

And another general interviewed by Folha De Sao Paulo, Hermano Lomba Santoro, said in Sunday's edition that Brazil did not yet have sufficient knowledge to build nuclear bombs. Gen. Santoro is head of the army's Technical Centre.

Mr. Nazareth has said that the political decision to set up a parallel nuclear programme was taken in September 1979.

The Brazilian press reported last year that the government had built an underground site which could be used for testing nuclear weapons at the military base of Cachimbo in Amazonia.

Government officials say the Cachimbo site is not intended for nuclear weapons testing.

3 jump to their deaths in Manhattan apartment fire

NEW YORK (R) — Three young people have plunged 33 storeys to their deaths in a bid to escape from a fire which also killed four other residents of an apartment block overlooking Central Park.

Officials said two brothers and their sister who celebrated her 12th birthday Saturday had leaped from the terrace of the modern, 35-storey building in New York City's deadliest apartment fire in years.

"The bodies were sufficiently burned to the point where it would cause people to opt to jump," Fire Commissioner Joseph Spinato said Sunday. "They were suffering."

Officials said the fire apparently began in a rubbish compactor in the basement and shot through a garbage chute to the upper floors. They said the building, which had no fire escapes, was designed to prevent such fires and it was unclear why it had happened.

"All we can speculate is that the fire from below somehow cooked for a period of time and

then broke out on the upper floors," Spinato said.

A body tentatively identified as the mother of the jumping victims was found in the apartment from which they leaped while three other people were found dead in the flat above.

Officials said hundreds of people were evacuated from the building even though the major damage was confined to the 33rd and 34th floors.

Twenty-five people were treated for smoke inhalation, one of whom was reported in critical condition at a hospital, officials said.

The first alarm was sounded early Sunday morning, officials said, but firefighters thought the fire was in a rubbish compactor in the basement and did not realise flames were beginning to billow from windows on upper stories in the rear of the building until 20 minutes later.

All of the gutted apartments abutted the garbage chute running from the basement to the roof of the building.

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ 103
▼ 2
♦ A 1043
♦ K 102754
WEST EAST
#75 ♦ Q J 9 6 2
QAQ 732 ♦ 96
9 9 2 5 ♦ 72
♦ 9 3 ♦ AJ 2
SOUTH
♦ A K 6
▼ K 10 5 4
♦ K Q J 6
♦ Q 5

The bidding:
West North East South
2 □ Pass Pass Dble
Pass 3 ♦ Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Nine of ♦

He returned a heart! That shattered the defense. Had West won and taken his ace of hearts, the king of hearts and fourth diamond later would have squeezed East in the black suits—he would not have been able to hold three spades and the ace of clubs. However, the defense did not better when West did not cash his ace of hearts, for the heart return had broken the defenders' line of communication.

East was out of hearts, so declarer could use the diamond entries to the table to set up and run the clubs. He lost only two club tricks and two hearts.

If, ten years ago, you had taken a poll to find the world's best bridge player, Giorgio Belladonna would have been one of the favorites. Although he plays little competitive bridge these days, this hand proves that he has not lost any of his skill.

West's weak two heart opening bid made life difficult for Belladonna in the balancing seat. He tried to

sove his problem by first making a takeout double and then bidding three no trump over North's three club response.

The top-of-nothing opening lead did not do anything to help declarer's cause. Declarer won in hand and led the queen of clubs, continuing the suit to the ten when East held up. East took his jack and returned a heart, covered by the ten and won with the jack. West reverted to a diamond, taken by declarer. How would you continue?

Belladonna made no mistake: he returned a heart! That shattered the defense. Had West won and taken his ace of hearts, the king of hearts and fourth diamond later would have squeezed East in the black suits—he would not have been able to hold three spades and the ace of clubs. However, the defense did not better when West did not cash his ace of hearts, for the heart return had broken the defenders' line of communication.

He has rejected suggestions of a military build-up in the territory, telling reporters the situation is normal.

Lisbon, annoyed by Indonesia's refusal to allow four East

Zia: Pakistan can build A. bomb 'if it wished'

NEW YORK (R) — Pakistan can build a nuclear bomb "whenever it wishes," President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq was quoted as saying.

"Pakistan has the capability of building the bomb. You can write today that Pakistan can build a bomb whenever it wishes. Once you have acquired the technology, which Pakistan has, you can do whatever you like," Gen. Zia said in an interview with the Time magazine.

Gen. Zia said, however, that Pakistan has no actual plans to make nuclear weapons.

The Pakistani president said: "What's the difficulty about building a bomb? We have never said we are incapable of doing

"give an assurance that Pakistan is not indulging in a nuclear experiment for military purposes. I am responsible for honouring that commitment," he said.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and China admit to having nuclear arsenals.

Speaking about India-Pakistan relations, Gen. Zia said: "Both sides wish the relationship was happier. This is not the reality. But you cannot rule out another confrontation, whether it is deliberate or not."

U.S. conducts military exercise in Honduras

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is about to conduct a major military exercise in Central America involving thousands of American troops, a U.S. military official has said.

The official, who spoke on condition he not be identified, said the operation, called Solid Shield, would involve sending American troops to Honduras and other places in the region.

But the official denied that the exercise was timed to coincide with what American officials have called a spring offensive by U.S.-supported contra rebels in Nicaragua. He said the American operation is conducted in the area every other year.

Bush expresses support for Ecuadorean president

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Vice President George Bush has said the United States will help Ecuador rebuild bridges destroyed by a wave of earthquakes in the rear of the building until 20 minutes later.

Mr. Bush also expressed U.S. support for President Leon Febres Cordero, who has come under increasing criticism for austerity measures imposed after the March 5-6 earthquakes in this small Andean nation.

The official said the number of troops involved in the Honduran portion of the exercise "would involve something less than 10,000 U.S. participants, and a majority of those would be forces afloat." He would not elaborate.

Pentagon spokesman Lt.-Col. Keith Schneider would not comment on the planned American operation, other than to say he expected an announcement on it soon.

Bush was surrounded by tight security following violent student demonstrations last week against austerity measures that included increases in the price of fuel and public transportation.

Mr. Bush was surrounded by tight security following violent student demonstrations last week against austerity measures that included increases in the price of fuel and public transportation.

Indonesian foreign minister campaigns in East Timor

JAKARTA (R) — New moves by Portugal and high-profile campaigning by Indonesia's foreign minister have directed fresh attention to the disputed territory of East Timor in the run-up to April 23.

Diplomats say that Portugal, still recognised by the United Nations as the administrative power in East Timor, is trying to get the community to back its demand that the 600,000 East Timorese be granted the right of self-determination.

Guerrillas fighting Indonesia's annexation of the former Portuguese colony say troops have launched new attacks against rebels there ahead of polling on April 23.

Foreign Minister Moctar Kusumahmadja, chairman of the ruling Golkar Party, is campaigning personally on the island to emphasise Jakarta's view that East Timor is an integral part of Indonesia.

He has rejected suggestions of a military build-up in the territory, telling reporters the situation is normal.

Lisbon, annoyed by Indonesia's refusal to allow four East

and one message I got loud and clear was his determination to finish his term," Mr. Bush said at a news conference at the end of a 4½-hour visit.

Mr. Febres Cordero was kidnapped and held briefly in January by commandos loyal to an air force general who tried to overthrow the government a year ago. His four-year term ends in August.

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China, Portugal to sign Macao pact on Thursday

PEKING (R) — Details of Monday's agreement to hand over Portuguese-ruled Macao to China will be released after the official signing in Peking on Thursday, Portuguese Ambassador to Peking Octavio Valero said.

Mr. Valero earlier told reporters that the tiny territory would be returned to Chinese rule on Dec. 20, 1999, but gave no further details.

A statement issued at 5 p.m. Monday (0900 GMT) did not give details of the agreement as earlier expected.

China has said repeatedly it wants Macao returned to its control before the end of the century.

"We are very happy with the results," Mr. Valero said after four days of negotiations in the Chinese capital. The talks were the fourth in a series on the Macao question.

The talks had been expected to focus on the status of the 40,000 Portuguese passport-holders among Macao's 400,000 residents.

Asked if the issue of nationality after the Chinese takeover had

been a problem in the talks, Mr. Valero replied: "It was one of them."

China traditionally opposes granting dual nationality to its citizens and requires holders of foreign passports to give up their Chinese citizenship.

The Peking government wanted to obtain a settlement on Macao in time to announce it at the 1987 session of its National People's Congress, or parliament, which opens on Wednesday.

Lisbon does not dispute China's claim to the territory on the South China coast, controlled by Portugal for more than 400 years, and is believed to have offered to hand it over twice before.

The 1984 Sino-British agreement providing for the return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 paved the way for formal talks, which began last year on Macao's future.

"Our visit has been very cordial and harmonious," said Mr. Valero after the final four-day round of Peking negotiations.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

1st test tube quadruplets born in Hamburg

HAMBURG, West Germany (R) — West Germany's first test tube quadruplets were born in Hamburg's University Clinic, a spokesman has said. He said the 29-year-old mother could not conceive naturally because of a deformation of her Fallopian Tubes and the in vitro method was used to fertilise several eggs which were removed from her ovaries. The fertilised eggs were then replanted, he said. The three girls and a boy are healthy but will have to spend some time in an incubator because they weigh only between one and 1.2 kilograms, he added.

New zoo opened in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (R) — A new zoo, with about 850 animals from over 100 different species, was opened here by Riyadh's governor Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. It cost 125 million riyals (\$34.4 million) to build and replaces an older enclosure. Saudi Arabia has two smaller zoos at Jeddah and Taif in the western province.

A Room With a View wins award

LONDON (R) — The popular British film *A Room With a View* has gained top honours from the prestige British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Based on E.M. Forster's novel of the same name about